

and increasing ties to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, they now pose a danger not only to Mali, but also to Algeria, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and perhaps even Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Mali, in recent years a model of African democracy, now finds itself struggling to resurrect democratic governance and put the military back in its proper role as part of government. The downfall of Mali's democracy could have a negative impact on the future of Mali, as well as the entire Sahel region of Africa.

Amadou Toumani Touré—popularly known as ATT—led a military coup in 1991 that created a transitional government and resulted in democratic elections in 1992. Mali's growing reputation for democratic rule was enhanced in 2002, when President Alpha Oumar Konaré, having served the two terms permitted under the constitution, stepped down, and ATT, running as an independent and leveraging his reputation as Mali's "soldier of democracy," was elected president.

Unfortunately, two issues eroded ATT's initial popularity. The first was a political system in which there appears to have been incentives for corruption. Certainly there was a growing public perception that the system was corrupt. The second was popular anger toward the government's handling of the Tuareg rebellion in the North. Weeks of protests at the government response to the northern rebellion dropped ATT's popularity to a new low.

On March 21, mutinying Malian soldiers, displeased with the management of the Tuareg rebellion, attacked several locations in the capital, Bamako, including the presidential palace, state television, and military barracks. The soldiers said they had formed the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State and declared the following day that they had overthrown the government. This forced ATT into hiding.

As a consequence of the instability following the coup, Mali's three largest northern cities—Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu—were overrun by the rebels on three consecutive days. On April 5, after the capture of the town of Douentza, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) said that it had accomplished its goals and called off its offensive. The following day, it proclaimed independence of their homeland Azawad from Mali. The Islamist group Ansar al-Dine was later a part of the rebellion, claiming control of vast swaths of territory, although this control was disputed by the MNLA. On May 26, the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine announced that they had signed a pact to join their respective territories and form an Islamic state.

Will this alliance last? Perhaps not. The MNLA is an offshoot of a previous nationalist political movement and is dedicated to a separate homeland for the Tuaregs and Moors who comprise its membership. Ansar al-Dine, whose name means "Defenders of Faith," is an Islamist group believed to have links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and other Islamist groups. Ansar al-Dine is dedicated to establishing sharia law—not only in Azawad,

but also in the rest of Mali as well. Disputes between the two groups already have resulted in gunfire involving the supposed allies.

As we held this hearing today, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the United Nations were discussing the viability of a peacekeeping mission in Mali. Such a mission would look to secure and protect civilian institutions and help restructure the Mali military. However, it also will focus on the situation in the North, which will be a tremendously sensitive matter, especially if the mission of the peacekeeping force is to retake territory from the MNLA and Ansar al-Dine.

To add further to the problematic nature of a response to the Mali coup and the Tuareg revolt, there is the matter of providing humanitarian aid to the 210,000 Malian refugees in Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Algeria. Another 167,000 Malians are internally displaced. Many of them are in remote areas and are difficult to reach with food and medical supplies. There is the question of how effective our aid efforts will be in such a challenging situation.

But no matter how difficult this matter is to address, there are too many people affected for the United States to fail to provide leadership in the effort to solve this political-social crisis.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARIZONA'S TGEN ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements in the field of biomedical research of the Translational Genomics Research Institute, known as TGen, over the last decade.

Located in Phoenix, TGen applies the science of genomics, or the study of the human genetics, to finding cures for neurological disorders and diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

When TGen was founded in 2002, Arizona's state and local leaders were excited by the promise of the many novel scientific discoveries that could be made through TGen.

But what was most exciting was that these discoveries made possible through further research into the human genome would translate into immediate and effective benefits for doctors and especially patients.

By partnering with entities at the forefront of medical discoveries like the Mayo Clinic and Scottsdale Healthcare, TGen for 10 years has focused on utilizing genomic analyses to improve patient treatments. Whether it's sequencing anthrax or the plague; finding new clues to Alzheimer's disease; or leading new research partnerships addressing pediatric

and canine cancers, TGen's research has changed patients' lives.

In addition to making critical contributions to the scientific and medical fields, over the past 10 years, TGen has made many contributions to Arizona's economy in the forms of investment and private-sector job creation. Investment into TGen and the biosciences spurred growth across the state, and spurred the launch of the Critical Path Institute and Bio5 in southern Arizona; Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute and a northern Phoenix bio campus; TGen North; and expansion of W.L. Gore in northern Arizona.

On its 10th anniversary, I applaud TGen's president, Dr. Jeffrey Trent, and the scientists at TGen for their commitment to make a difference for medical patients and their contributions to creating innovative research for Arizona.

HONORING MARIE ROBINSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Ninety years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Henry County, Georgia on July 21, 1922; and

Whereas, Mrs. Marie Robinson was born Marie Morris to Mr. Wil and Mrs. Mary Gay Morris, she was educated in the local school system in Georgia, married Mr. Moses E. Robinson and through their union was blessed with nine children, thirty-five grandchildren, sixty-six great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Mother and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Robinson along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 90th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Robinson on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 21st, 2012 as Mrs. Marie Robinson Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of July, 2012.